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Mr. Underwood's Definite Promise to the Country.

Whenever it comes to a question between hopefulness and despondency in the prognosis of business conditions THE SUN is every time with the party of Daylight Ahead. That is our habitual attitude. Our sympathetic toleration extends sometimes even to the chasers of rainbows; they do infinite good in this world, if they seldom actually catch up with the pot of gold.

THE SUN does not mean to class the Hon. OSCAR W. UNDERWOOD with the rainbow chasers when it records with peculiar gratification that distinguished gentleman's prophecy of an extensive revival of business confidence and activity during the present year. Mr. UNDERWOOD went so far on Tuesday, in the House of Representatives, as to stake his reputation for discernment on the prediction that "before the coming elections next fall there will be an industrial awakening that will put to shame the panic preaching brokers who cry disaster in order to bring about depression."

Although the specific mention of election day appears to denote a political intention on the part of Mr. UNDERWOOD, we cannot believe that his sober, conservative, cautious and conscientious intellect was influenced by insignificant considerations of partisanship in a matter of such momentous importance to all his fellow countrymen. His positive conviction as to the imminent resumption of prosperity must be based on ascertained facts; on something more tangible than loyalty to the Wilson policies, personal desire for the vindication of the tariff bill in the construction and passage of which he bore no conspicuous part, and earnest hope that the Congress elections in November will not upset the Democratic majority in the House. Mr. UNDERWOOD's splendid promise must signify, more than that.

The Passing of Coal as a Fuel for Warships.

A statement made by Admiral ROBERT S. GARRISON to the House Committee on Naval Affairs a day or two ago that the Department was much interested in the conservation of oil lands in the West and "would suffer if it could not obtain a large supply of oil" (we quote from a Washington dispatch) is obscure until one understands that the fuel of the future for warships will be oil and not coal. It accounts for the concern of the Government about concessions in Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador which Lord COWDRAY has been seeking.

England's need of oil is at the present time much greater than that of any other country. Mr. LIONEL YEXLEY, a well known authority on naval topics, goes so far as to say in an article in the English Review that England's naval supremacy on the sea may be lost unless oil is substituted for coal as the fuel of her fleet. A Royal Commission on Fuel and Engines is just now sitting in London. The German Admiralty is working along the same lines. It has drawn up a memorandum recommending the immediate introduction of oil fuel in new warships. There is reason to believe that England contemplates using oil on all her ships now building; on the list are nine battleships, four battle cruisers, seventeen cruisers and forty-four destroyers. The Government has been negotiating with the Mexican Eagle Oil Company for a permanent supply and has been casting around to control other sources.

As Mr. YEXLEY points out, England cannot afford to build bigger and faster warships, because more horse-power requires the consumption of vastly more coal, and more coal cannot be stored and used without putting upon the complement of a ship more work than can be done by flesh and blood. Coaling on the dreadnoughts and cleaning up after the coal is in has become the bane of the service. The work has to be done frequently and it leaves but little time in the twenty-four hours for rest and sleep. The big ships which are being turned out at an amazing rate under the spur of necessity to main-

tain what passes ostensibly for the two power standard are tremendous "coal eaters."

To illustrate, the battle cruiser Queen Mary, of 28,850 tons, which attained a maximum speed of 35.7 knots in her trials, burned 500 tons of coal in running from Portsmouth to Portland, a distance of forty miles. All hands on a warship are drafted for coaling, and in emergencies the seamen (the fighting branch), who have to qualify in stokehold work, must do their turn in the engine room. Moreover, conditions in the living quarters grow worse and worse, for bigger funnels and uptakes leave less and less space for the accommodation of the men. On every one of the later dreadnoughts there is a spirit of revolt against the hardships that have to be endured, and one enlistment is often enough. In 1912-13 the large number of 11,370 petty officers and men dropped out.

Theoretically oil is to be preferred to coal, because in a blockade, also in the preliminary stages of a sea fight, ships would have to leave the line to coal and would return to it with the men in no condition to handle the guns. Internal combustion engines, assuming that they can be perfected, would take up much less room than steam engines; the liquid fuel could be passed into reservoirs through a hose with comparatively little labor; funnels and uptakes would be eliminated; the personnel could be reduced from fifty to seventy per cent.; and to refuel no ship would have to leave the battle line. Living conditions would be immensely improved, and England could have the services of all the fighting seamen that were needed.

The same problem worries the United States Navy Department, but as yet not acutely. We are not building superdreadnoughts with feverish haste or designing leviathans to dash through the water with the speed of torpedo boats. Nevertheless it is realized that oil must take the place of coal as fuel on warships eventually. So the Government is becoming deeply interested in the conservation of oil lands.

The Privileged Crime.

A young woman of respectable antecedents was returning to her home in an elevated railroad train on a September evening. She was annoyed and insulted by two young men.

It happened that two policemen, not in uniform, were in the car when this happened. They, obeying the instincts of decent men and the obligations of their calling, went to the young woman's assistance.

A fight followed, and one of the policemen, McNIERY, by name, was stabbed. The weapon used was a stiletto, a weapon unlawful to carry in this State. McNIERY died of his wounds six days later.

His assailant was arrested, accused of murder in the first degree and tried before a jury. He was convicted, not of the crime charged, but of manslaughter in the first degree. On being sentenced to a term of not less than ten and not more than nineteen years imprisonment, this man said to a court attendant:

"I fully expected to be convicted of murder and sent to the electric chair. I can do this sentence easy and still be young when I get out."

In the name of HANS SCHMIDT and HARRY THAW, why should not murder be committed in New York?

The International Exchange of Dramatists.

Whatever may be the result of CHARLES FROHMAN's experiment of transplanting playwrights to make them more productive, the scheme obviously possesses certain advantages. Believing that the American theatre now requires plays of a kind altogether at variance with the taste of European audiences, he would colonize the European playwrights here and await results.

Already Mr. FROHMAN has named some of those who are to be subjected to this process. HADDON CHAMBERS will be invited here to absorb enough American life to inspire him to the production of a play. It seems sure that the Australian dramatist will be improved by this process. He once wrote a drama of life in Harlem. As a final touch of local color he named the heroine Katinka Jones. If Mr. CHAMBERS lives only a short time in Harlem he will learn that few families there can boast the possession of a Katinka, actual or on an earlier branch of the family tree. This will Mr. CHAMBERS enjoy the first benefits of Mr. FROHMAN's scheme.

SOMERSET MAUGHAM, who has always shown a disposition to introduce about the tea tables of his heroines an alien civilization, is another playwright that the manager would acclimatize in order that he may possibly do as well for this country as he has for the North-west in "The Land of Promise." But the process is not to stop here. J. M. BARRETT may be persuaded to come to this country, and there is a veiled threat that WILLIAM COLLIER may be set down on Piccadilly to write a play of London club life. So far Mr. COLLIER in all his collected works has revealed knowledge of only one New York club, and its humor has been fairly crystallized in his dramas.

The advantages of Mr. FROHMAN's scheme seem indisputable. J. M. BARRETT may become so thoroughly naturalized on Broadway as to write a play for the special display of the subtle talents of that stalwart sycamore of the Wabash Miss VALESKA SURATT. European playwrights may be awakened by the change of scene to unprecedented activity. PIERRE WERRE might harness his boulevard muse to the services of Miss VIOLA ALLEN, while GRACIE HAUPTMANN, contemplating the art of W. H. CHANEY, might be inspired to compose a poetic drama for its re-

lation in a later manner. Possibly the native humor of BERT WILLIAMS would divert the genius of ARTHUR WING PINERO into less pessimistic channels than it has pursued for several unhappy seasons, to the despair of his managers and the atrophy of his royalties. It is impossible to prophesy what might happen when the genius of GEORGE M. COHAN first dazzles the poetic vision of EDMUND ROSTAND. We can only hope it will not be a second "Chantecler."

The scheme is too grandiose for adequate description in prose. It is only unfortunate that the genius of Mr. FROHMAN did not develop a score or more years ago. Then might have been possible the crowning achievement of his career. One need only deplore the unavoidable absence of Dr. INSEN from all these arrangements for the greater glory of the drama. Had the famous playwright of the north met MARIE DRESSLER, what brilliant flights might his genius have taken. As it is we approve of the plan to export American playwrights as well as to import the foreigners. Nothing could be more advantageous to our theatre than the fearless exportation of some of our dramatists. In case Mr. FROHMAN's memory needs jogging, we are perfectly willing to supply him with a list of those who never would be missed.

Alas for Social Justice!

That the statement issued by BAINBRIDGE COLBY in answer to Comptroller PRENDERGAST is an authentic political document is proved by the fact that it begins with an assault on Mr. PRENDERGAST's truthfulness. Thus is its character established. But how did Mr. COLBY allow himself so to stray as to declare that:

"It is not a question of Progressives being entitled to any office. It is simply a question of their being deprived of a representation in the municipal administration which on all sides it was agreed the Progressive party was entitled to. This they lose as a result of a deception practiced upon them by Mr. PRENDERGAST."

Were we not told in trumpet tones a thousand times that the municipal administration would be, must be, non-partisan, unpartisan, completely divorced from politics, entirely without party favor or significance? Was not a business administration pledged and promised from every platform and in every document? Did not the Republicans unselfishly vote into office a triumvirate consisting of two Democrats and a Progressive on this high and altruistic principle?

Alas for social justice! Are the strains of "Onward, Christian Soldiers" admittedly to stir men merely for Progressive "representation"?

Where?

Nothing would please us more than to know that any eating house proprietor who sets young savages on us to seize our hats and coats, who promotes indigestion by afflicting us with bands while we eat, and who encourages the simple to prance about the floor to the interruption of our conversation, must pay \$600 or another sum more than the keeper of a mere barroom, but we are moved to wonder where Excise Commissioner FARLEY obtained the information on which he bases this statement:

"As the hotel has seven days sale against six for the saloon, it should pay at least one-sixth more than the cost of the saloon certificate. But the added day is worth more than the one-sixth, as on that extra day the greater number of saloons are closed and the hotel has an exclusive privilege."

In what advanced and model community of this State are those saloons whose owners would find it profitable to keep them open seven days closed? Indeed, in what community are the saloons so situated as to make the bar trade profitable between 1 o'clock and 5 o'clock in the morning, when they are supposed to be shut tight, not wide open?

Martial Law in South Africa.

When a general strike of miners on the Rand was threatened last July and the mob took possession of the streets of Johannesburg heroic measures by the authorities averted anarchy. In collisions between the turbulent element and the Imperial troops and police acting together many rioters were shot down. Afterward General BOTHA and General SMUTS conferred with their leaders, who had formed a revolutionary committee, and a "truce" was agreed on. The labor trouble was settled temporarily, and a commission of inquiry reported that if the Government had realized the gravity of the original strike in the New Kleinfontein mine there need have been no rioting at Johannesburg.

Apparently the Government is not going to be caught napping again, although a general strike has been ordered by the Trades Federation and the Rand miners, and in some respects the situation is graver than ever. Martial law and the mobilization of the volunteers under the command of General DE WET, the famous Boer hero, mean that there will be short shift for rioters and looters and that the law against disorderly assemblies will be vigorously enforced. The army of volunteers is permeated by the old Boer fighting spirit. General SMUTS, the Minister of Defence, has served warning on strikers who are disposed to resort to violence that if he has to police Johannesburg there will be no such tenderness in dealing with the mob spirit as officers of the Imperial troops displayed last July.

The temper of the 200,000 natives employed on the Rand is a doubtful factor of the situation. No labor agitator, however reckless, would dare to call upon the Basutos; the danger is that they may take advantage of what they regard as the white men's quarrel and get out of hand. It speaks highly for the intelligence of the Hindus, who have their own grievances, that they

have decided to bury them until the perils of the general strike are passed. It is a significant feature of the crisis in South Africa that the Boers and their old leaders are standing sturdily and loyally by the Imperial Government. A citizens' defence committee of 100,000 men should be able to deal with any manifestation of anarchy and hold the savage Basutos in check.

"There is a MAN!"—Harper's Weekly. Goodness gracious, have you discovered one in your neighborhood?

BLAINE the ebullient has broken out again in his annual message to the Legislature of South Carolina. There is nothing surprising in his recommendation that an act be passed prohibiting any white person from teaching negro children. Such a regulation would mean that in many cases negro children would go untaught, this according to Governor BLAINE, would doubtless be a consummation devoutly to be wished. Nor will any one familiar with the delicate gallantry of the Governor be astonished to learn that in the interests of the ladies he disapproves of persons who "sit in our public dining rooms, restaurants and cafes, and smoke cigars and foul little cigarettes, and whiff and puff and blow the smoke out through their nostrils." That the Governor should wish the playing of football prohibited in the model State of South Carolina is also entirely natural, since if young men devote themselves to the frivolous sport of football they cannot be expected to engage with the earnestness that it deserves in that fine old pastime of negro lynchings, which has the cordial indorsement of the Governor. The only part of the Blaine message that really calls for surprise is the Governor's new found respect for that Constitution which on one memorable occasion he consigned to an uncomfortable spot. Now he is perturbed over the question of an alleged infringement of State rights by Congress, which has fixed hunting dates in South Carolina of which the Governor disapproves. So the Constitution may be rehabilitated.

Boston with its model charter, having chosen in a non-partisan election the Mayor its people want, naturally lays itself out to do the best for all who seek for uplift, betterment and social improvement.

Feeding and taking care of the Mexican Federal soldiers and refugees in Texas is going to cost a good deal of money. It is difficult to see how the United States is to be repaid. The Swiss who received a French army of 85,000 men in their territory during the Franco-Prussian war and housed and fed them sent the French Government a bill of 11,000,000 francs, which was honored. If the Constitutionalists should succeed in ousting Huerta and setting up their own government, would the cost of food and shelter for several thousand Federals who ran away from "Pancho" VILLA be paid? Hardly. Even Huerta, if he were to triumph in the end, would prove a refractory debtor. The United States has done a great many good deeds in the name of humanity, and apparently the succor of the Mexicans and their wives and children must be added to the list.

By Request.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In a recent conversation with two or three companions of literary tastes the subject of the editorial value of our leading newspaper came under discussion. The remark was made that in point of diction, depth of thought and general literary excellence the palm should be presented to THE SUN, the Louisville Courier-Journal and the Springfield Republican.

As we believe with little Virginia O'Hanlon's papa that "if we see it in THE SUN it's so," may we ask for your opinion of this selection, even though it leaves open the question of the editorial value of your own publication?

Our honest opinion is that the Courier-Journal of Louisville and the Republican of Springfield conspicuously deserve the admiration of this correspondent and his friends for the quality of the editorial thought and writing and the general excellence of literary form observable in those newspapers.

How Many Labor Unionists Are There?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It would seem that all right thinking individuals should commend Mr. Vincent's statement in his letter to Mr. Upton Sinclair, which, though expressing a too common belief, is erroneous.

I have before me a competent authority which states that the American Federation of Labor has 2,000,000 members and the Industrial Workers of the World 70,000. Allowing for the unions not affiliated with the above, it can safely be said that there are not more than 2,500,000 labor unionists in this country. The total employed population is between 35,000,000 and 40,000,000.

Therefore I protest against Mr. Astor's statement that the representatives of labor "referred to are 'men whom the great mass of the working people of our country have authorized to speak for them.'" Though heartily endorsing conservative unionism, I am not a member of the great mass of those who are not members of such organizations, constituting 94.1-3 per cent. of all the workers; and I prefer not to be classed with the 5.2-3 per cent. whom the labor leaders to whom you refer are the methods of the radical and un-American speech and actions.

E. H. C.
New York, January 14.

Poor Bachman!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: "I" in THE SUN is really quite amusing and at the same time enlightening. Having had the benefit of a good laugh at the funny way in which he "sets me to rights," I shall now endeavor to do the same for him. I shall not go into the "balcony," "way back with both eyes shut," the next time I attend a concert at Symphony Hall. So I am doubly indebted to "I." How much more I am indebted to "I" for the sake of my kindly critic, gentle soul, break this more gently, "poor Bachman!" cannot possibly turn in his grave, he is not yet dead. I would say "Alas!" for the sake of "poor Bachman!" even though I detect his "music."

EMIL PICKHARDT.
Brooklyn, N. Y., January 14.

By nature I am shrinking
And modest in my mien,
And yet a bold man shivers
When I am on the scene.

ADDING NEW MATTER TO THE INCOME TAX LAW.

Another Instance of Apparent Legislation by the Bureau Officials.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your editorial article in this morning's issue of THE SUN, regarding the addition of new matter to the income tax law, is interesting and timely. This is not the only point to which attention should be called.

With the principle of an income tax enlightened persons will not quarrel, and even in the provisions of the beautiful perfect piece of legislation known as the income tax law of October, 1913, those affected may well acquiesce, being a helpless minority of voters; but when arbitrary departmental rulings are class specifically exempted from the law is wholly or partly made subject to it, a protest would seem to be timely. Under paragraph D of the law, which provides for the return of income, it is "Provided further, that in either case above mentioned no return of income not exceeding \$3,000 shall be required." This with other sections of the law make it perfectly clear that individuals having an income of less than \$3,000 are in no way affected by the law.

In spite of this fact the Commissioner of Internal Revenue by a recent regulation (No. 923) has added to the law which Congress left out. He says that if the aggregate net income of husband and wife living together exceeds \$4,000, an annual return of their combined income must be made. This regulation is not separately has an income of \$3,000 per annum." (The italics are mine.) Taking the case of a man and wife, he having a salary of \$2,500 a year and also by the exercise of her own talents an income of \$2,500, under the law as passed neither would be subject to tax, yet under this ruling they are supposed to return their combined incomes and receive the deduction of \$4,000 and become taxable on \$1,000. The next logical step for the Commissioner will be a ruling that where minor children from penny savings or gifts are in receipt of separate incomes they must be combined with those of their parents and returned. We will then have a brand new theory of taxation per stripes and not per capita.

If it be said that Congress gave the power to the Treasury Department to make regulations, as it did, the reply is that Congress did not and cannot delegate its tax making authority, nor can a departmental official cause to be enacted by the Treasury Department a law. I am not personally affected by the point above set out except in so far as injustice on the part of those in authority tends to arouse any lawyer worthy of his name to meet in advance fraud presumed without grounds being shown whereby a man would put into his wife's name part of his income to evade taxation. The legality of such a device may be conceded, its legality should be fought through the Supreme Court.

Let us have more editorials on such points for the guidance of the people.
New York, January 14.
H. D. B.

LEARNING TO DO BUSINESS.

Is It True That We Teach Others How to Surpass Us in Commerce?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The United States is a business nation, a commercial country, and that is the reason why it is so successful. It is an aristocracy of dry goods, boots and shoes, groceries, butchers, bakers, candlestick makers and such other industrial producers as may be necessary to supply the needs and luxuries of a great and growing people who are more or less extravagant in their tastes and are willing to pay the price. Once upon a time an aristocrat of this kind was held in high esteem by the aristocracy of birth; indeed, I believe it actually was, but American energy and enterprise have lifted that estimate and now the aristocrat is considered to be of such quality as makes it eligible to marry into any aristocracy on earth. So much for our business methods in one direction, but what about the other? Particularly in the art of getting foreign trade?

We talk a great deal about our export trade, and it is really worth talking about. The United States exports over \$1,000,000,000 a year, and we are making strenuous efforts, in our way, to increase it; but there are many countries in which American goods are not sold. There is, especially, this true of countries which are logically and legitimately our territory, that is to say the countries of the western continent. Nor is it because American goods are lacking in quality or are too high in price. The difficulty lies in our inability to compete with foreigners, England, Germany and France, particularly in their methods of selling. We are not doing it, and we don't know how to do it as they do, and we have thus far shown that we cannot learn how. This is not because we are stupid, but the contrary. We think we know better than anybody else on earth, and we go into foreign markets with a self-conceit so bulky and awkward that the modest foreigners get right by us and stop our hearts and pocketbooks of customers. There is, however, a statement in his letter to Mr. Upton Sinclair, which, though expressing a too common belief, is erroneous.

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THE THIRTY YEARS WAR AND MEXICO'S.

An Historical Parallel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In everything except its cause, the civil war in Mexico is a close parallel to the Thirty Years War. It is a good example of history repeating itself, and the long interval between the two conflicts only makes the similarity more interesting.

The Thirty Years War was so terrible, endless and hopeless because, as has been the case so far in Mexico, none of the combatants had sufficient power to conduct a general and decisive campaign or to defeat its adversaries completely. While an army was obtaining the mastery of one region a new force of its enemies was being formed in another, compelling the victor to abandon the offensive and assume a defensive which was often unsuccessful.

Under these conditions of extreme vicissitude the armies degenerated rapidly, and the war became inhuman and was chiefly characterized by robbery, wanton destruction, torture, murder and crimes against women. None of the armies was or could be free from these faults, although the Swedes were comparatively so until the death of Gustavus.

These conditions are now being almost photographically reproduced in Mexico, which has a population peculiarly fitted to perpetuate them. A writer who probably is well informed states that many authors of works on criminology are agreed that there are proportionately more criminals among Mexicans than among any other nation living under an organized form of government. History shows few worse monsters than Zapata and Venustiano Carranza. The Thirty Years War ended because the resources of Germany were exhausted and there was nothing left to support an army. A large majority of its people had perished, and it was more than a century before it recovered from the effects of the war.

The question that interests the people of the United States is how far the Mexican parallel with the Thirty Years War is to be prolonged. Ex-Senator Chandler, who still seems sure of his mission to solve all the world's problems, has declared that the barbarous carnage among the Mexicans makes further delay of positive action by the United States unjustifiable. He appears to suspect that "watchful waiting" will prove to be only a translation into 1914 of the "wait and see" policy which, some strategists say, prolonged our civil war by three years.

The public, with the exception of Mr. Chandler, are less interested in the Mexicans' troubles than they are in the protection of Americans and other foreigners in Mexico. European Governments have postponed the fulfillment of their duty to protect their subjects in Mexico in the expectation that the United States would take the lead. If they grow impatient and undertake to proceed for themselves the effort to avoid intervention may lead to other international difficulties.

The elimination of Huerta would be only a step, and from present appearances would substitute for him a leader who has committed many crimes like the one which Huerta is suspected, and who would be equally anxious to perpetrate more. Americans are anxious to see what their Government's attitude will be if Villa and constitutional brigandage "come into their own."

WALLENSTEIN.
Washington, January 14.

OTHER CREDITABLE POLICEMEN.

The Porto Rican Constabulary Praised for Its Good Work.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Now that the virtues of the Aqueduct police, the mounted police and the Canal Zone police have been extolled in your paper, I want to say a few words in behalf of another splendid body of men.

These men are not ex-soldiers of the United States army, but they are a well trained body of police. I speak of the Insular police, who maintain law and order in the island of Porto Rico. Whether directing traffic in the narrow streets of San Juan or upon the broader cañarreras, or patrolling the docks and wharves or standing at a lonely country railway station, Pablo or Pedro or Jose is always on the job, as the saying is. Nor does his position give him an overbearing manner. He is friendly, courteous and polite, and his own police in this city.

Very often he is a country boy brought from the rice fields or the sugar plantations after passing a rigid examination physically he receives a patrolman's position at about \$30 a month to start. He may be stationed in a large town or city or he may have to patrol a long stretch of country. There is very little crime in the entire island, and what there is is found in the large cities that contain people from other West Indian islands and from the United States.

These men who form the Insular police are all natives of Porto Rico, and they are among the healthiest and finest men of the island. In fact, a visitor could hardly find a better body of men. The officials had asked Porto Rico with its tooth comb and had made either soldiers or policemen of all the young men who possessed good sturdy figures and sound health.

In several trips to the island I have become acquainted with many a policeman. Sometimes he has been black as coal, at others white as myself. Sometimes he spoke English, and sometimes Spanish. At all times he has been a gentleman, and in all truth, an officer upholding the dignity of the law.

He has always been in sympathy with American methods and has considered it a great honor to be able to contribute a bit to uphold the dignity of the country which will not permit him to be its citizen. So, because I have seen him at his work and have spent many pleasant hours with him in all parts of the island, I say "All honor to the Insular policeman; there is no one his superior."

BROOKLYN, JANUARY 14. A TRAVELER.

Wearing Hats at Symphony Concerts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Perhaps "I" who advises Emil Pickhardt there that he should not wear his hat when attending symphony concerts, would like to see him sitting in Woolsey Hall of Yale when trying to enjoy concerts and not be annoyed by women's hats.

Of course it isn't necessary to see the comedian in order to believe that "all true lovers of music" will agree that it would add to the pleasure not to have "their eyes shut" by one of those bamboo tree trunks worn over their heads. I have been to concerts at the Metropolitan, and Hoboken, N. J., and women were not allowed to wear their hats, and yet neither of these cities is supposed to be so cultured as New Haven.

MITCHELL.
Connetquot, Conn., January 14.

Business Note From Batavia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I thought you would be interested to learn that we buy our eggs from Mrs. Chick.

BATAVIA, JANUARY 14. C. C. BRADLEY.

AGREEMENT REACHED ON MILITIA PAY BILL

Secretary Garrison Accepts Suggestions Made by Guard Officers.

ADDS TO FEDERAL CONTROL

Guardsmen to Have Status of Soldiers on Reserve Subject to Call.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—That there is a substantial agreement between the militia organizations and the War Department on the chief features of the proposed Federal militia pay bill was developed here this afternoon in a conference between Secretary Garrison and a committee representing the State officers.

The draft of the proposed bill was \$200 over and it was found that the changes suggested by the militia representatives affect no matters of vital interest to the War Department. Secretary Garrison informed the committee that he was ready to accept their suggestions without any modification.

Conferees With Garrison.

Those who called on the Secretary included Gen. Martin of Texas, president of the convention of adjutants general; Gen. Stuart of Pennsylvania, Gen. Sadler of New Jersey, Gen. Young, president of the executive committee of the National Guard Association; Gen. E. A. Crowder, Judge advocate general of the army, and Gen. Mills and Col. Hale of the militia division of the War Department.

The bill, now wholly satisfactory to the War Department, will be laid before the President for his approval. The President has not yet indicated whether or not he favors the bill. It is thought, however, that it will be passed without delay.

The bill if enacted into law will give the War Department a much greater control over militia troops. As a condition of receiving Federal pay, the State troops will have to conform to the requirements for service in the militia, and to be paid down by the War Department, insuring a standard of efficiency.

Available in War.

Perhaps the most important provision, however, is that which makes available for foreign duty in case of war every militiaman in the State organizations. Violation of the constitutional provision which forbids the Federal Government to keep a standing army in time of peace is avoided by requiring each militiaman, upon taking the State oath, to agree at the same time to accept service in the militia in case of war, subject to a call to arms from the United States Government.

It is provided, however, that the President cannot call upon the militia for Federal service without the consent of Congress. This provision is regarded as remedying a weakness of the Dick law.

National Guard officers who have been conferring with the War Department officials for several days have declared that passage of the Federal pay bill will not only promote efficiency and contentment of the militia.